

Office of the Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

4 September 1980

Captain J. R. Batzler, USN
Commanding Officer
USS NIMITZ, CVN 68
FPO, New York, N.Y. 09542

Dear Captain Batzler:

I want to thank you for the opportunity to visit the USS NIMITZ last weekend. During one of our conversations, you characterized commanding the NIMITZ as "the best job in the Navy." It was clear even from my short visit that it is a job that you do extremely well. I was impressed throughout my visit with the professionalism, dedication and skill of the officers and crew of your ship and its aircraft complement. Their skill and high morale are undoubtedly due in no small part to your effective leadership.

I especially enjoyed the opportunity to fly in an A-6. The flight was an experience I shall never forget. Thanks to the ability and reassuring manner of Lieutenant Bud Jewett, I had no apprehension throughout the flight--including the night landing. He is an exceptional officer and pilot and I know that he has a bright future before him in the Navy.

As appropriate and convenient, please convey my gratitude to your staff for their gracious hospitality this past weekend. And I want especially to thank you for your time and the book of photographs.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Gates
Executive Assistant
to the Director

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